



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
May 3, 2000
MINUTES

Members Present: Jim McKenney (Chair), Leo Bouchard (Chair-elect), Oden Cassidy, Debbie Dane, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Robert Ashby, Steve Leach, Charles Little, Carol Pillsbury, Steve Hayes, Peter DiPietrantonio, Mike Luciano, John Burton (ex-officio)

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Jim Caron, Donnie Carroll, Terry Lonchena, Bill Zito

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Bill Montejo, Drexell White

Guests: Dave Reynolds (Rangeley Rescue), Sonja Randall, Kevin McGinnis

1. Introductions were made and guests welcomed.

2. Minutes – March 2, 2000

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 2, 2000, meeting as distributed. (Dunwoody; second by Cassidy). Carried.

3. Old Business

- a. Budget Update – nothing new to report at this time.
- b. Legislative Update – nothing new to report at this time.
- c. Rules Update – Revised Rules are being printed along with a cover sheet summarizing the substantive changes. Copies will be distributed to all service chiefs and regional offices.
- d. Other – none

4. New Business

- a. Ops Team/Committee Action Items – nothing new to report at this time.
- b. Investigation Committee Action Items

Drexell White reported that he received a request from Peter Coffey to withdraw his letter requesting a fair hearing. To conclude this matter requires Board ratification of the action taken by the Investigations Committee and previously reported to the Board, to wit:

That licensee Peter Coffey was convicted of Theft by Unauthorized Taking , Class E, on June 18, 1998; that the aforementioned conviction was based upon a theft committed by Coffey against a Maine licensed EMS service with which he was employed; that Coffey attempted to sell the stolen equipment to another Maine licensed EMS service of which he was a member; that

information obtained by Maine EMS as part of its investigation and informal conference with Mr. Coffey indicate that Mr. Coffey displayed a similar pattern of behavior while an employee of Delta Ambulance Service - Farmington; that Mr. Coffey's statements of remorse are unconvincing; and, that Mr. Coffey lacks the requisite character to continue as a member of Maine's EMS system. Therefore, the Committee finds that licensee Peter Coffey violated sections 12(A)(3), 12(A)(4), 12(A)(7), and 12(A)(18) of the Maine EMS Rules (dated September 1, 1996) and that Mr. Coffey's current application, and all future applications, for EMS licensure be denied.

Following discussion the following action was taken:

MOTION: That Peter Coffey's letter of withdrawal of his request for fair hearing concerning case #98-21, received by Maine EMS on March 29, 2000, is deemed to be a waiver of all Mr. Coffey's administrative appeal rights and that the proposed action in this matter as set forth in the minutes of the October 6, 1999, Investigations Committee meeting is the final decision of the Board. (Little; second by Leach). Carried with two abstentions (Dunwoody, Bouchard).

c. Regional Medical Director Approval

MOTION: To approve the appointment of David Ettinger, MD, as Regional Medical Director for Mid Coast EMS. (Bouchard; second by Dunwoody). Carried.

d. Board member profiles/photos for Journal of Maine EMS

Jay reminded Board members that their profile and photo are requested for an ongoing series of articles which will appear in the Journal of EMS. Photos may either be submitted to Jay or a digital picture may be taken at the MEMS office. These articles will begin in the July issue and eventually include all Board members, central and regional office staff, and committee members.

e. EMS Week Activities

Jay reminded Board members that the MEMS Annual Awards ceremony will be held at the Holiday Inn (near the Augusta Civic Center) on Monday, May 15, 2000, at 2:00 PM. Both Governor King and Commissioner Kelly are scheduled to participate.

Other EMS Week activities include: Alfred Fire/Rescue dinner (sponsored by Goodall Hospital) on May 15th, Rescue Fest at Sanford Jr. High School on the 20th, EMS recognition dinners in Presque Isle on the 15th and at St. Joseph's Hospital, Bangor, on the 17th.

f. QA Committee Approval

A request has been received from Carmel Ambulance for approval of their QA Committee. Staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval.

MOTION: To approve the Carmel Ambulance Quality Assurance Committee in accordance with 32 MRSA § 92-A. (Bouchard; second by DiPietrantonio). Carried.

g. Enhanced EMT-I Course Approval

Jay reported that the enhanced EMT-I program has been fully reviewed and effective with the Rules changes (7/1/00) will be ready for implementation. As services prepare to obtain the medications which will be administered in accordance with this change, staff has noted that with the exception of Epinephrine (1:1,000), the other medications have been approved by the Board to be kept out of a

sealed drug box, provided that an alternative system for storing and logging has been approved by MEMS.

Staff recommends adding Epinephrine (1:1,000) as an out of drug box medication.

MOTION: To approve the Enhanced EMT-I program and include Epinephrine (1:1,000) as a medication which can be kept outside of a sealed drug box provided the service has obtained MEMS approval for same. (Hayes; second by Pillsbury). Carried.

h. Timeline for pending issues

Jay indicated that there are several issues that have been raised over the past several months, but have not been prioritized for Board discussion/action. These issues include: Air Ambulance Rules revisions, service sponsorship requirements, and individual license fees.

After discussion that funding and legislative issues should be added to the list, consensus of the Board was that staff should provide a report with an expanded understanding of the issues and a proposed time line for action.

Staff will work on these with the Operations Team and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

i. Other

5. Staff Report

a. Office (Jay Bradshaw)

- i. The run report RFP has finally been approved and will be published in the next week (+/-). The numerous delays in getting this approved have caused some concerns with regard to budget and implementation; however, the project will continue in as timely a manner as possible.
- ii. A videotape on preventing youth suicide has been finalized and is being distributed. This 24 minute video is intended to be either a standalone introduction for gatekeeper training, or as a part of the 2-3 hour EMS gatekeeper training program.
- iii. The Trauma Advisory Committee is working on the resurvey criteria for trauma centers. It has been 3 years since the last survey was conducted and discussion will continue at the TAC meeting in July with regard to what changes should be made to the trauma plan for both trauma centers and trauma system hospitals. Trauma registry training will be conducted in June for the trauma centers. There have been a number of issues with regard to the computer software and as a result, it was decided to focus on getting this program working properly at the trauma centers before expanding its use to other hospitals.
- iv. Videoconferencing may be coming to MEMS. Work continues with DPS-MIS and the Bureau of Information Services about running a dark fiber line from the Maine Revenue Service office to MEMS. Currently the data line coming in to the office is a 56K line which is very congested with traffic from other Departments and provides rather poor outside access.

b. MDPB (John Burton, MD)

- i. MDPB has approved the enhanced EMT-I program and protocols.
- ii. There was discussion about a proposed Retivase research project in the Bangor area. While the MDPB denied the request, there was a discussion on the role of the MDPB with hospital Institutional Review Boards.

- iii. A letter has been sent to all service chiefs, hospital emergency directors, and nurse managers regarding access to central lines by prehospital providers.
- iv. The Paramedic Interfacility Transfer Module has been updated to add one new medication; Lorazepam (Ativan) and three categories; Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa platelet antagonists, antibiotics, and vitamins. The training module has been fully revised and is available from MEMS.
- v. Critical Care Ground Transport has been, and will continue to be, discussed. A request has been made by Meridian Mobile Health to allow their flight personnel who have been trained in advance procedures to use the skills (which are approved for air ambulance missions) in certain ground ambulance settings.

There was concern expressed by Debbie Dane about the need and appropriateness of having paramedics and nurse/paramedic teams performing these advanced skills in a ground setting.

The item will be continue to be discussed at the June MDPB meeting.

- vi. The MDPB discussed the Trauma Protocol and the role of medical control in the decision to re-route patient destination, Consensus of the MDPB was that this would be a regional decision regarding standing orders for contact.

c. Other – none at this time.

6. Other

- a. Bill Dunwoody mentioned the involvement of Sen. Susan Collins's office in improving the rural modifier which HCFA is considering. This issue is part of the Negotiated Rulemaking process which has been ongoing and which will result in fee schedules for ambulance reimbursement. Sen. Collins has been very interested and active in seeking increased reimbursement for rural services who have to travel greater distances and have more limited call volumes.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.